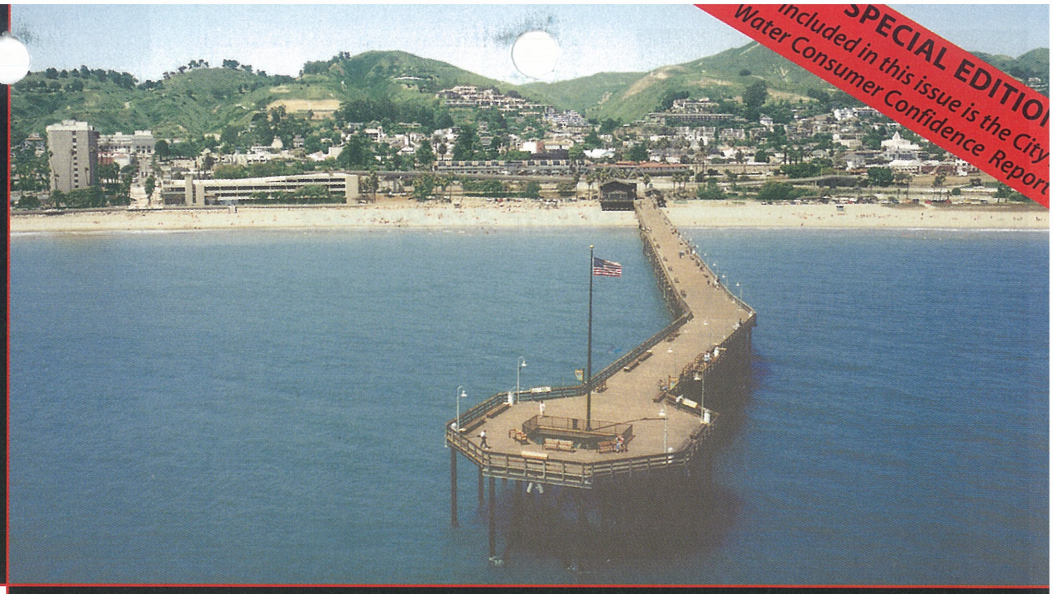
FutureFocus
Making Ventura Even Better!



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June - August, 2001 Issue No. 17

City of San Buenaventura's Community Newsletter

Making Ventura Even Better!

Making Streets A Top Priority
Five Year Pavement Maintenance Plan

The City of Ventura is making street repairs a top priority by aggressively implementing its Five-Year Pavement Maintenance Plan. The City Council has committed over $25 million dollars to be spent over five years to repair streets. This represents an increase in street maintenance of three-fold above prior levels.

Various types of pavement treatments including slurry seals, cape seals and overlays are used. **Slurry seals** are preventive maintenance treatments for streets in good condition: a sand-and-oil mixture is applied to the existing asphalt surface. **Cape seals**, for streets with medium deterioration, entail application of a coarse layer of hot rubberized oil embedded with rock chips, followed by a slurry seal. **Overlays** are used for badly deteriorated streets and consist of a two-inch layer of hot, rubberized asphalt laid over the existing asphalt surface.

If you would like to know which streets are scheduled for repairs in the Five-Year Pavement Maintenance Plan, you can view the plan on the City's web site **www.ci.ventura.ca.us**. Click on City Hall, then Public Works Department, and Street Maintenance. The plan may also be viewed in the main entryway at City Hall, 501 Poli Street from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact the Public Works Street Maintenance Division at 652-4515.

ventura seize the future

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), appointed in February by City Council, continues to hold public meetings with residents and City staff to update the goals, policies, and objectives contained in the Comprehensive Plan based on the Seize the Future Vision document. To date, topics have included CPAC roles and responsibilities, fundamentals of general plans, housing data, boundary and annexation laws and procedures, and the basics of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO).

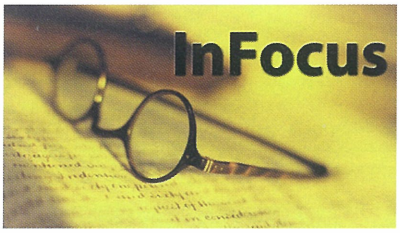
For additional information, or for future meeting dates, times and locations, please visit the City website at *www.ci.ventura.ca.us* or call the Comprehensive Plan information line at 677-3940.

GOLD COAST Senior Games & Masters Series
13 Sports For People 50 & Over From All Over the Nation!

Calling All Mature Athletes
Fit, Fabulous and 50+

Athletes 50 and over are invited to join the 17th annual *Gold Coast Senior Games and Masters Series* held from October 6-14. Hundreds of athletes participate in 13 different sporting events including billiards, bowling, track and field and more.

Register now! The Community Services Department is accepting applications until September 14. For more information, or to receive a registration packet, please call 648-3035.



Ventura Harbor Wetlands Public Art Project

Is it true that the City is going to put public art at the City's wastewater treatment plant?

The Ventura Harbor Wetlands project is being planned for the 50-acre lagoon area, which is a component of the wastewater facility and is located between the Santa Clara River and the Ventura Harbor. The area's three lagoons are home to a diverse animal and plant population including birds, fish, frogs, turtles and bobcats.

A multi-disciplinary team led by artist Lorna Jordan was selected to develop a master plan for this unique project, which will assist in educating the public about the wetland's fragile ecosystem while enhancing cultural tourism. To make this natural resource more accessible to residents and visitors, artist designed improvements might include walkways, viewing platforms, benches, and interpretive signage.

This project will be a natural and cultural asset to Ventura, reflecting the Ventura Vision's objectives to accentuate Ventura's natural character and build linkages along the coastline. Community input will continue to play a key role in the development and implementation of the master plan.

Schaf Photography – www.schafphoto.com

The project is being funded by the City of Ventura's Public Art Program, which was established in 1991 to enhance Ventura's cultural and economic vitality. Funding for the program comes from 2% of eligible capital improvement project budgets.

For more information please contact Kerry Adams, Public Art Supervisor at **kadams@ci.ventura.ca.us** or **658-4768**.

Monthly Televised Meeting Schedules

City Council – every Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Ventura Unified School District
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Ventura City Hall • 501 Poli Street

Contact the City Clerk's Office at 658-4787 for a complete listing of City Commission meetings. Meetings are televised live on Cable Channel 6.

Tune in!

Water Consu

VENTURA PUBLIC WORKS

The City of Ventura welcomes this opportunity to provide you with water quality information. The Water Consumer Confidence Report was prepared in compliance with regulatory requirements. Ventura's Water Division aims to ensure the water provided meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

Water Sources

Ventura provides water from the Ventura River, Lake Casitas, and local groundwater wells. The City owns and operates three water treatment plants, 22 booster pump stations, 25 treated water reservoirs, 12 wells, and over 350 miles of pipeline.

Water Treatment

All of the City's water receives treatment. Water from the Ventura River is treated by a method referred to as Conventional Treatment. This process involves coagulation (rapid mixing), flocculation (gentle agitation), sedimentation (settling particles), filtration (filtering water), and disinfection (adding chlorine to water). The groundwater sources are treated to remove iron and manganese and provide disinfection. Lake Casitas water is treated by Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) prior to delivery into our system.

The City is currently preparing to make changes to our water supply disinfection process. In December 2001, the City will begin to use chloramines in our treatment process. Chloramines are chemicals, which contain chlorine and ammonia. Chloramines were selected as the preferred disinfectant due to their ability to provide disinfection in the water distribution system over an extended period of time and for their lack of taste and odor as compared to chlorine. It has been shown that chloramines help deliver water to customers with lower levels of trihalomethanes (TTHMs), potentially harmful byproducts of the disinfection process.

Another reason that the City will be using chloramines is because the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) will be changing their disinfection process to chloramines and the City would like to coordinate with their anticipated schedule. Casitas provides about one third of the City's water supply, which is mixed with water

Your City Council

Sandy E. Smith, Mayor
Donna De Paola, Deputy Mayor
Brian Brennan, Councilmember
Ray Di Guilio, Councilmember
James J. Friedman, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember

City Councilmembers may be reached by e-mail at ***council@ci.ventura.ca.us*** or by calling 654-7827. This number is answered during business hours by City staff.

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by calling 654-7850 or 654-7766 TDD.

produced from other City surface and groundwater facilities. Keeping the disinfection process as consistent and stable as possible throughout the water system will help prevent taste, odor and disinfection problems from occurring.

In preparation of this change, the City has prepared an action plan, which includes public notification and information about chloramines. Please look for additional information to come.

Water Quality Testing

Ventura owns and operates a full-scale, state-certified laboratory where water quality is monitored. All treatment plants are run by state-certified operators and have instrumentation that continuously monitors specific water quality constituents to ensure that the water is of high quality.

In 1999, the second round of sampling and testing for lead and copper levels was completed. Of the 36 residential samples taken, only one exceeded the copper regulatory action level, and no samples exceeded the lead regulatory action level. In addition to the water quality constituents listed on the Water Quality Summary Table, the City sampled for many other regulated constituents, all of which had non-detectable levels.

Water Quality Concerns

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services prescribe regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City of Ventura treats its water according to the Department's regulations. The Department's Food and Drug Branch regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture and livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections and are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illnesses. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. Ventura tested for Cryptosporidium and Giardia cysts. Small amounts of Cryptosporidium were found in one sample from the Ventura River. No cysts were found in the treated water. Cryptosporidium is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps.

Water Quality Terminology

The Water Quality Summary Table on the back page shows constituents measured in Ventura's water and reported to the State Department of Health Services. Some of the terminology used is described below:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goals (PHGs) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to the health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level (RAL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

For More Information

The City of Ventura recently updated the 1995 Sanitary Survey of the Ventura River and completed a Source Water Assessment of all groundwater wells and the Ventura River. If you would like a copy of either document or would like more information regarding water quality, please contact Ventura's Water Superintendent at 652-4500. The *Water Consumer Confidence Report* is also available on the City's website at **www.ci.ventura.ca.us**.

All persons who have questions or concerns regarding Ventura's water are invited to express their opinions at City Council meetings held regularly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para más información, por favor llame 658-4785.

Water Consumer Confidence Chart – 2001

Utilizing data gathered in 2000. Only water quality constituents detected by laboratory testing appear in the chart. The definitions of terms in this table can be found inside.

PRIMARY STANDARDS (PDWS)	Units	Maximum Level MCL	State Goal PHG	Federal Goal MCLG	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Water Clarity											
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	NA	0.15 (a)	0.02- 0.15	0.4	0.1 - 1.2	0.14 (b)	0.01-0.14	Soil Runoff.
	NTU	TT	NA	NA	100% (a)	NA	NA	NA	100% (b)	NA	Process variations at surface water treatment plants.
Radioactive Contaminants											
Gross Alpha particle activity (c)	pCi/l	15	0	0	3.9	3.0 - 4.5	7.1	2.3 - 10.5	2	0.9 - 2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta particle activity (c)	pCi/l	50	0	0	4	1.8 - 6.1	6.9	2.6 - 12.2	NA	NA	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Radium 226 and 228 (c)	pCi/l	5	0	0	0.65	ND - 1.4	1.1	1 - 1.4	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (c)	pCi/l	20	0	0	2.4	2.1 - 2.8	5.4	2.9 - 8.4	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants											
Aluminum	ppb	1000	NA	NA	223	107 - 515	277	176- 340	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic	ppb	50	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste.
Barium	ppm	1	2	2	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.1	0.1	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from oil drilling waste and from metal refineries.
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	1	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.5	0.5- 0.7	0.3	0.3 - 0.4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	10	0.8	ND - 1.3	0.7	ND - 2.2	0.4	ND - 0.7	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage

PRIMARY STANDARDS for Distribution System	Units	MCL	PHG	MCLG	Distribution System Average	Distribution System Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Disinfection							
Chlorine Residual	ppm	None	NA	NA	1.1	0.2 - 2.2	
Disinfection By Products							
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	100	NA	NA	67.8 (d)	ND - 111	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	NA	51.1 (d)	5.5 - 83.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	5%	0	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	NA	0	0	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

LEGEND

- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detectable
- **NS:** No standard
- **NTU:** Turbidity, a measure of the clarity or cloudiness of the water.
- **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- **pCi/l:** Picocurries per liter, a measu of radioactivity in water.
- **CMWD:** Casitas Municipal Water Distric
- **TT:** Treatment Techniques. The ap proved filtration technolog used for performance standard that must be met through th water treatment process.

Lead and Copper Samples	Units	RAL	PHG	MCLG	Samples Collected	Above RAL	90th Percentile	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	15	2	2	36 (e)	0	ND	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.17	0.17	36 (e)	1	0.72	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.

SECONDARY STANDARDS	Units	Maximum Level MCL	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range
Aesthetic Standards								
Color	Color	15	ND	ND	3	ND - 40	2	2
Odor	Threshold	3	ND	ND	ND	ND	2	1 - 2
Chloride	ppm	500	28	14 - 35	58	39 - 82	11.4	11 - 12
Corrosivity	ppm	Non corrosive	0.17	-0.03 - 0.46	0.32	0.06 - 0.66	-0.2	-0.4 - 0
Iron	ppb	300	ND	ND	ND	ND - 200	ND	ND
Total dissolved solids	ppb	1000	522	116 - 784	1090	708 - 1296	340	330 - 350
Specific conductance	umhos	1600	753	590 - 850	1400	1160 - 1640	520	490 - 550
Sulfate	ppm	500	188	133 - 225	480	361 - 607	129	126 - 132
Additional Constituents								
pH	units	6.5 - 8.5	7.5	7.2 - 7.8	7.2	7 - 7.5	7.3	7 - 8.2
Hardness	ppm	None	355	251 - 401	602	542 - 662	231	218 - 244
Calcium	ppm	None	95	63 - 109	164	150 - 179	45	22 - 60
Magnesium	ppm	None	29	23 - 31	47	39 - 54	22	20 - 23
Sodium	ppm	None	40	27 - 48	131	102 - 168	28	24 - 31
Phosphate	ppm	None	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	0.2	ND - 0.8	NA	NA
Potassium	ppm	None	2.8	2.3 - 4.4	5.5	4.4 - 15.2	3	3
Total Alkalinity	ppm	None	168	127 - 221	241	219 - 267	127	122 - 130

Ventura Avenue Water Treatment Plant

Footnotes: (a) Average is maximum reading. Avenue Plant TT= 95% of samples equal or below 0.5 NTU (b) Average is maximum reading. CMWD TT= 95% of samples equal or below 0.2 NTU
(c) All radiological samples were taken in 1998 and 2000. Figure is an average of four samples. (d) Running Average. (e) Samples were taken at selected households on a first draw in September 1999